couragement besides taking further confidence building measures. The Central Government is in constant touch with the State Government and representatives of the migrants in this regard.

Assistance Scheme for States for Drinking Water in Municipal Areas

3933. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to assist the State Government to provide drinking water facilities in Municipal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds released to Andhra Pradesh for the purpose during 1994-95 and 1995-96; and

(d) the names of Municipalities which were benefited from such financial assistance in Andhra Pradesh during 1994-95 and 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Centrally sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) for towns having population less than 20,000 (as per 1991 Census) has been introduced with effect from March, 1994. Under this programme cost between the Central and the State Government is shared in the ratio of 1:1.

(c) and (d) No proposal has so far been received from the State of Andhra Pradesh by the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment. In view of this, no funds have been released to Andhra Pradesh during 1994-95 and 1995-96.

UN Report on Scocio-Economic Condition of India

3934. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'India still amongest the poorest and socially impoverished: U.N. report' which appeared in the Times of India of the 17th July, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) what are Government's plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER ALAGH): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) The news item pertains to Human Development Report 1996, published by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), The Report presents a number of indices that combine a measure of income with other social Indicators, to capture the level or human progress. There include the Human Development Index (HDI), the Gender related Development Index (GDI), the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) and the Capability Poverty measure (CPM). The report notes that (i) India is ranked 135 out of a total of 174 countries on the HDI;

(ii) the CPM is estimated at 61.5 per cent of India's population;

(iii) at a disaggregated level the HDI and the Gender related Development Index reveals large disparities across regions; (iv) the real per capita income showed a significant improvement for India in the period since 1980; and (v) India is among the countries where income became more equitably distributed.

(c) and (d) Human development is the ultimate goal of the Eighth Five year Plan. It is towards this that employment generation. population control, literacy, education, health, drinking water and provision of adequate food and basic infrastructure are listed as priorities. The Common Minimum programme reiterates

the Government's committments to take steps to build a just and human society.

Tenders for Old Russian Unit of Thermal Power Station-I at NLC

3935. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether under life Extension Programme of Old Russian Unit of Thermal Power Station. It NLC tenders were called in which 5 parties quoted in 1994.

(b) whether bulk of the job involved Russian spare parts and the Russian parties with good backup in terms of reputed and established collaborators in India, were technically disqualified on flimsy grounds to favour the Multinational with higher price bid;

(c) whether the multinational in question carried out the job by importing most of the spares/equipments from the Russian companies; and

(d) the steps taken/to be taken to check favouritism at the cost of public interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Suggestions from MPs to Amend the DDA Act

3936. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the D.D.A. had sought suggestions from Members of Parliament hailing from Delhi to help it amend the DDA Act to check/curb unauthorised constructions/misuse of premises/encroachments;

(b) if so, whether suggestions from such M.Ps have been received and the Act amended; and

(c) if not, what action Government propose to take to amend the Act on its own, on the basis of experience gained over the years, keeping in view the alarming pace of encroachments, unauthorised constructions, conversion of residential houses into business complexes etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) to (c) This Ministry had sought suggestions from Members of Parliament from Delhi regarding amendment of the Delhi Development Act 190 as to check unauthorised constructions in Delhi. The suggestions from the Delhi MPs have not yet been received. The Government is already seized of matter.

Employment Generation in Railways through JRY

3937. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a move for employment generation in the Railways under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how will it provide employment to those residing in rural and backward areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Worsening power Position in Assam

3938. SHRI KARNENDU BATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of